

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**A. Restriction Requirement**

Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-22 with traverse.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that Kodama (U.S. 5,522,343) teaches the special technical feature of the invention recited in claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 1 recites that the hybrid coating includes an inorganic component having nanoparticles. Kodama, however, does not teach or suggest an inorganic component having nanoparticles. Rather, the apparatus described by Kodama employs a combination of a source for hydrogen radicals and inorganic/organic precursors (see col. 3, lines 19-26 of Kodama). The precursors of Kodama are not combined with nanoparticles before they are deposited on a substrate. Moreover, Kodama obtains a purely amorphous material, whereas the hybrid material of the present invention has nanoparticles embedded in the matrix.

Applicants respectfully submit that restriction is improper because Kodama does not teach or suggest a special technical feature of claim 1. Reconsideration and removal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

B. Fees

This Response is being filed within two months from the mailing date of the Office Action. A one month extension of time is requested and payment is provided herewith. No further fee is believed to be due. If, on the other hand, it is determined that further fees are due or any overpayment has been made, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit or credit such sum to Deposit Account No. 02-2275. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), please treat this and any concurrent or future reply in this application that requires a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. The fee associated therewith is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2275.

C. Conclusion

In view of the actions taken and arguments presented, it is respectfully submitted that each and every one of the matters raised by the Examiner has been addressed by the present amendment and that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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